

VRCA News Notes



Summer 2003



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

I hope this finds you all well and surviving the wet weather we have been experiencing in Virginia. VRCA Board and committee members are currently gearing up for the VRA Collaborations Conference in September, planning training opportunities and continuing membership recruitment.

The Virginia Transition Forum entitled Shared Responsibility for the Educated Employee was held at the Hotel Roanoke March 17-19th. It was well attended by DRS, school personnel, and Community Services Board staff. Much of the training focused on providing transition services for students with mental health disabilities. Services to this population are vital and it's important that we as professionals work to enhance the services for successful employment. During the conference VRCA held a 50/50 raffle which brought in \$90 towards our fund raising efforts. Special thanks to Darlene Ackerman and Asha Rodwell for selling the most tickets.

Rehabilitation Counselor Week was May 5-9th. On Friday, May 9th VRCA sponsored a training and reception in celebration of our profession. It was a terrific event and well attended! The training conducted by Dr. Reid and Dr. Allen Lewis was well received and beneficial to our work with people with disabilities. The topics of discussion were Rehabilitation leadership and taking care of ourselves. Special thanks to Marie Worley for her dedication in planning this event. Commissioner Rothrock attended this special event and presented a proclamation from Governor Warner declaring Rehabilitation Counselor Week.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the VRA Collaborations Conference in Portsmouth! If you have any questions or are interested in joining VRCA please don't hesitate to contact any of the board members listed in this newsletter. Thank you all for your continue support of VRCA!

-- Jane E. Bennett, President

Membership

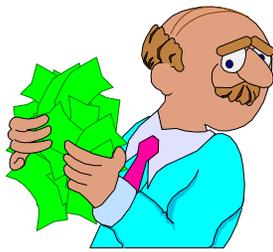
If you are a member of VRA and are interested in pursuing a membership with VRCA, please come to any of our meetings. For those of you who are already members of VRCA, we've missed seeing you at our meetings. So please come back and join us! We have several activities planned for this year and would love to have more folks involved. If you have any questions about VRCA, please feel free to contact anyone on the Board. We'll be happy to answer your questions. We also have several committees that you could be a part of, if interested. The committees and their chairs are listed on the last page. Please consider your commitment to your profession and join us. We will be recruiting for Board members soon. If you are interested please contact Jane E. Bennett at 703-277-3500.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Monday, September 29th
(VRA Collaborations Conference)
Thursday, December 11th
(Ashland Library)



Members/prospective members
are **always** welcome to
attend!!



Ways & Means

Ways and Means Committee is planning to hold three 50/50 raffles during the upcoming year. The cost of each ticket will be \$1.00. Darlene Ackerman coordinated our first raffle at the Transition Forum in Roanoke in March. Jane Bennett, Asha Rodwell and Billy Smeltzer assisted Darlene with 180 raffle ticket sales. Susan Burns of DRS was the winner--taking home \$90!!

Our second raffle was held in May during Rehabilitation Counselor Day. The winner, Charles Blaine, won \$101!!

The next raffle will be held at the Collaborations Conference (Portsmouth) in the Fall. Please contact me at (804) 739-7377 if you are interested in selling raffle tickets. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the last two raffles. Remember, in order to raise money for our organization we need your support!

- Debbie Penrose
Committee Chair



Awards



Coming Soon: Your Opportunity to Nominate Rehabilitation Counselors for Recognition!

In June nomination packets will be sent out giving you a chance to work with **The Virginia Rehabilitation Counselors Association (VRCA)**. Your candidates will be considered for recognition of their outstanding work, and if chosen will be presented with the "**Counselor of the Year Award**" and/or "**New Counselor of the Year Award**". This year the awards will be presented at the September Collaborations Conference.

As rehabilitation leaders and counselors you are in an excellent position to identify worthy candidates. Please begin thinking of a fellow counselor that you would like to see honored for their outstanding contributions to the field of rehabilitation. Look for nomination packets in the mail very soon. We count on you to identify

Nominations



[Look for information in our next edition.]

VCU Honors Dr. Allen Lewis

Dr. Allen N. Lewis of the VCU Rehabilitation Counseling Department was recently honored with Virginia Commonwealth University's Faculty Award of the Presidential Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment (PACME). The PACME awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions toward enhancing Virginia Commonwealth University's commitment to diversity. These awards are given by the president of VCU to members of the university community in recognition of their significant contributions to the principles, goals, and ideals of affirmative action, and to the enhancement of the institution's commitment to diversity. They were created to recognize and encourage such activities as promoting civility, building community, establishing effective cross-cultural initiatives, advocating equity, and nurturing openness and inclusion within the university community.

CRC Changes

New Year and New Changes are established for CRC credits.

As a VRCA member and as a CRC counselor there are changes for 2003. In the future, VRCA sponsored training will directly provide CRC credits only to VRCA members. Non-VRCA attendees will receive a Certificate of Attendance which they must submit to CRCC themselves and pay the appropriate fee to have the Commission evaluate the education documentation for appropriate approval.

VRCA will no longer be able to provide a CRC number for individual training sessions. If a person attends a training on their own they need to make sure the sponsor has obtained a CRC number for the training in advance. Otherwise they will obtain a verification of attendance and hours attended. They will then submit this information to CRCC for approval of CRCC maintenance hours. VRCA is only able to obtain a pre-approved CRC number for their own sponsored training.

There is an annual fee that NRCA must pay to CRCC for participation in the pre-approval process for sponsorship training. It is cost prohibitive for NRCA to approve other programs since there is a \$50 fee each time to NRCA. VRCA must submit their sponsored training programs with an outline and resume(vitae) on the speaker six weeks prior to the presentation. Neither Ed Navis or myself will be able to give individuals approval as done previously.

VRCA continues to inform rehabilitation counselors of the importance of their membership for maintenance of their CRC status. VRCA offers training and CRC credits without the hassle and extra costs/fees. Some of the VRCA sponsored training in 2003 will be free while other sponsored training will cost non-VRCA members more than VRCA members.

**JOIN NOW!
EARN CRC CREDITS AND SAVE MONEY**

- Darlene Z. Ackerman

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION FOR US !!

An enthusiastic audience gathered on Friday, May 9th at the VA Museum Of Fine Arts to celebrate *Rehabilitation Counselor Day 2003*. We were honored by the presence of three informative and entertaining speakers. Dr. Allen Lewis of the VCU School of Rehabilitation Counseling addressed the *Importance of Leadership in Rehabilitation*, which broadened our intellects. Dr. Chris Reid, Chair of the Dept of VCU School of Rehabilitation Counseling taught us *How to Take Care of Ourselves as Counselors*, which warmed our hearts. Finally, Cindy Angus, Wellness Director for the Metro Richmond YMCA's addressed the *Reasons to Take Care of Ourselves when under Stress*. She provided a refreshing and humorous presentation. DRS Commissioner Jim Rothrock opened the day by saying thank you to all rehabilitation professionals for our hard work. His remarks were well received and greatly appreciated. Commissioner Rothrock also read the proclamation of May 9th 2003 as Rehabilitation Counselor Day from Governor Warner. The audience was a mix of private sector, State and County rehabilitation professionals--the team we work with to employ our customers. This was not only a day to celebrate the individual professional but the team of professionals that we work with everyday. Many counselors welcomed this day of celebration out of our busy schedules.

I would like to thank DRS Commissioner Jim Rothrock, Darlene Ackerman, Cheryl McDonnell, Debbie Benson, and Eave Huff for their

Education



The Education Committee is currently working on the following: panel training August 1st on Ethics and panel training on November 7th on Work Place Diversity. We'll let you know when the details are confirmed.

- Ed Navis, Chairman

Legislative Committee



Rules Committee Action on H. R. 1261

The House Rules Committee rejected an amendment filed by Congressman John Tierney (D.MA.) that would have established a line item for the funding of the infrastructure of one-stops. However, an amendment offered by Congressman John Kline (R. MN.), was accepted and will allow Governors to determine the portion of a partner's funds to be used for funding of the one-stop infrastructure. The infrastructure costs to the mandated partner would be proportionate to that mandatory partner's use.

The impact of the Kline amendment on VR is uncertain, but is problematic for a number of reasons to include:

- it reneges on a promise by Congress to safeguard a separate funding stream for public VR and exposes the VR performance-based system to a system without a proven or uniform track record of accountability;
- it would divert funds from the VR program to fund a one-stop system that is largely inaccessible both programmatically and physically to individuals with disabilities, and is in violation of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
- and finally it is uncertain how the Kline amendment would be administered and its effects on VR, since proportionality is not defined in the legislation.

Federal court decision could impact MDA camps nationwide

Two women with neuromuscular diseases have asked for an injunction that would allow them to volunteer at a Muscular Dystrophy Association camp this July near Perry, Kansas. The two women, who both use wheelchairs due to their own muscular dystrophy, have worked as volunteers at the camp for a number of years.

The MDA has a policy that prevents people from volunteering if they are unable to lift and carry campers with muscular dystrophy. The women claim that this policy discriminates against them under provisions of the ADA. The MDA's lawyer states that the MDA is only enforcing a long-standing policy that was violated by the women's past participation. The attorney feels that a decision against MDA could restrict its ability to serve 4,200 campers in camps around the nation and in Puerto Rico. An attorney specializing in ADA issues argues that by preventing the women from volunteering, the MDA is discriminating against the very people it is supposed to serve.

- Asha Rodwell, Committee Chairperson



REMEMBER....

This is *your* newsletter. Please continue to make suggestions and submit any of the following to your Newsletter Editor, Kristi Lockhart:

- ❖ **Articles for publication**
- ❖ **Success stories**
- ❖ **Questions**
- ❖ **Helpful hints or advice**
- ❖ **Resources you've discovered**

VRCA Member Appointed to CORE

The National Rehabilitation Counseling Association's Board of Directors has appointed Chris Reid, Ph.D. CRC CVE CCM, to serve an important role in the accreditation of Rehabilitation Counseling training programs. Dr. Reid will serve on the Commission on Standards and Accreditation for the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE).

VRCA

Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs

President

Jane Bennett (703) 277-3500 bennetje@drs.state.va.us

President Elect

Asha Rodwell (703) 277-3512 rodwelac@drs.state.va.us

Past President

Robin Metcalf (804) 278-9151 ext. 11 rmetcalf@thechoicegroup.com

Secretary

Darlene Ackerman (804) 662-7126 ackermdz@drs.state.va.us

Treasurer

Kristi Lockhart (804) 674-2903 lockhaki@drs.state.va.us

Board Members

Cheryl McDonnell (2002-2003)	(703) 792-4912	mmcdonnell@pwcgov.org
Debbie Penrose (2002-2003)	(804) 739-7376	penrosedj@aol.com
Dawn Mauro (2002-2003)	(804) 560-2080 ext.108	dawnmauro@aol.com
Billy Smelser (2003-2004)		
Dee Graves (2003-2004)		
Kim Graves (2003-2004)		

Committee Chairs

Awards - Cheryl McDonnell	(703) 792-4912	mmcdonnell@pwcgov.org
CRC – Darlene Ackerman	(804) 662-7126	ackermdz@drs.state.va.us
Education - Ed Navis	(804) 367-9871	navise@drs.state.va.us
Legislative – Asha Rodwell	(703) 277-3512	rodwelac@drs.state.va.us
Membership		
Newsletter – Kristi Lockhart	(804) 674-2903	lockhaki@drs.state.va.us
Nominations – Jane Bennett	(703) 277-3500	bennetje@drs.state.va.us
Ways & Means – Debbie Penrose	(804) 739-7376	penrosedj@aol.com

